

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 12, line 14, as follows:

The upstream and downstream seat regions 22, 20 of the valve needle 10 are shaped so that wear of the needle 10 occurs in both downstream and upstream directions relative to the seating line 112 in approximately equal amounts. This is achieved by selecting a relatively small upstream differential angle Δ_1 between the upstream seat region 22 and the seat cone angle, θ_S , and by selecting a relatively small downstream differential angle Δ_2 between the downstream seat region 20 and the seat cone angle, θ_S , and where the differential angle Δ_2 on the downstream side is slightly smaller than the differential angle Δ_1 on the upstream side. Typically, for example, the upstream and downstream seat regions 22, 20 may be shaped so as to define a differential angle Δ_1, Δ_2 with the nozzle body seat angle, θ_S , of between about 0 degrees 10 minutes and 5 degrees.